

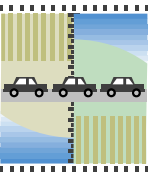






2006 - 2007 Citywide Priorities

As part of the biannual "Priority Calendar" process, the City Council established Citywide priorities from the entire workload before the City. These are the significant projects in terms of the time and resources devoted to them, as well as their visibility and impact on the community. They transcend the six-month timeframe of the Priority Calendar and are the priorities for the Council during its entire two-year tenure (even though some may take longer than two years to complete, significant progress is expected in that timeframe).

The following chart provides updated information on the ten Citywide priorities.

ISSUE	CURRENT STATUS
Update the General Plan 	<p>This project entails a multi-year, outside-consultant assisted, comprehensive update to the City's General Plan Elements, and Specific Plans. Staff will utilize the (2003) City-wide Visioning Efforts product as a springboard to commencing work on modifications to the General Plan <i>Land Use</i> and <i>Housing</i> Elements, and Downtown Specific Plan revisions, as part of the initial stages of the General Plan Update work program during FY2006-07.</p>
Plan for Belmont Fire Services	<p>The Belmont Fire Protection District has given direction to rescue South County Fire Protection Authority. Through its representatives on the SCF Commission, the District is working with the City of San Carlos to develop the future plan of fire service for both communities. The implementation of the plan of service is scheduled for July 1, 2006.</p> 
Harbor Industrial Area Annexation Strategy	 <p>The City Council has adopted a strategy to complete the annexation of the Harbor Industrial Area. A Council subcommittee has been appointed and is working with HIA representatives on the key issues as a prelude to potential annexation.</p>
Economic Development 	<p>The City continues to implement its comprehensive Economic Development program. The program includes three distinct strategies. Those strategies include targeting specific sites for economic development (business recruitment), annexing the Harbor Industrial Area (business recruitment and retention), and offering a host of services to the business community to encourage business retention and growth.</p>
Redevelopment Priorities 	<p>A five-year spending plan for \$4 million was adopted by Council in 2004. Planning work for under-grounding of utilities on Old County Road has begun. Construction is expected to begin in 2006/07. Other projects include a façade rebate reimbursement program to assist commercial property owners improve their building exteriors, landscaping improvements along main corridors, and replacement of decorative paving along the sidewalks in the downtown area. As the Economic Development strategies are refined and adopted, staff will bring back revisions the RDA capital plan to accommodate the directives of the Directors.</p>

Parking Issues	 <p>This project is to review and develop a comprehensive parking management strategy for both on and off-street parking in the commercial business areas of the City.</p>
Build a Bike/Pedestrian Bridge over 101 	<p>The environmental assessment for the Bike/Pedestrian bridge has been completed and reviewed by Caltrans. The final plans, specifications and cost estimates are being reviewed by Caltrans for final comments. The new federal legislation (SAFETEA-LU) has designated \$2.6 million for the construction of the project. The federal funds were secured by Congresswoman Eshoo. The City has an existing \$500,000 grant and \$400,000 is proposed to be funded by Park Funds. The City has been applying for various grants for the balance needed to complete the funding for this \$6 million project.</p>
Emmett House Redevelopment 	<p>The Redevelopment Agency gave direction to staff prepare a project for relocating the Emmett House to its vacant lot at Sixth and O'Neill for remodeling/refurbishment. In 2005, the Board provided direction to explore developing the house with two affordable units - up to the moderate income level, and a four-car garage. Such a project entails rezoning the Sixth/O'Neill site to accommodate the two-unit development; the development proposal is expected to be presented to the Planning Commission in July 2006 & RDA in September 2006. Should the project be approved, relocation/reconstruction is expected to begin in mid-2007.</p>
Old City Hall Site	<p>The RDA Board will be considering its options for development of the Old City Hall site on 5th Avenue, between O'Neill and Broadway. These options will be predicated upon RDA direction given relating to the Economic Development efforts targeted for sites within the downtown corridor area.</p> 
Improvements to Development Review Process 	<p>The "one-stop" Permit Center has been operational for three and one-half years and is open in its permanent location on the first floor of City Hall. The Council convened a Permit Efficiency Task Force (PETF) to explore additional improvements and efficiencies to the City's permit services (building, zoning, engineering and business licenses). The PETF presented its efficiency recommendations to the Council on October 25, 2005. The Council gave direction to staff to implement all "low & no-cost items"; staff has been implementing such recommendations with full completion expected by year (2006) end. Staff will also commence work on <i>Design Guidelines</i> during FY2006-07, which was targeted as a high a priority by the Council in the Spring 06 Priority Calendar review.</p>

Updates of this document and the Priority Calendar are posted on the City Clerk's page of the City's website: www.belmont.gov. For more information on any of these issues, please contact the City Manager's Office at 595-7408 or cmanager@belmont.gov.